

Chairman Thomas Reynolds called the meeting to order at 5:06 p.m. in the BELD Board Room. Those present at the meeting included Chairman Reynolds, Vice Chairman Anthony Agnitti, Secretary James Regan, General Manager William G. Bottiggi, Ken Stone, Chuck Coyne and Gail Cohen, all of BELD.

I. Minutes of Prior Meetings

i. June 18, 2019 Open Meeting

Voted: on motion of Mr. Regan, seconded by Mr. Agnitti, to accept the minutes of June 18, 2019 Open Meeting as written.

II. Items for Action

i. H.2863/MEAM Analysis Group Report Feedback

Mr. Bottiggi explained that H.2863 is the legislation that the MEAM group, which is comprised of municipal utilities, put together to put requirements on ourselves. The requirement consists of becoming 80% renewable by 2050. The investor owned utilities already have a requirement but the difference is their legislation is linear: it increases 2% per year increasing every year. We proposed 7% renewable by 2021, 40% by 2030, 60% by 2040 and 80% by 2050. We want to do it in steps and the reason is we have projects that we have been investing in over the years and also we would like to get credit for nuclear. The investor owned utilities do not have projects – they just buy Renewable Energy Credits (RECs) and retire them. We have nuclear, hydro, wind and solar – some have RECs and some don't. Nuclear is the biggest thing that does not have RECs with it. This legislation will give us credit for nuclear power and that will be gone by 2050; Seabrook is going to retire and that is where our nuclear power is.

Our portfolio is currently occupied with all different projects and we are in great shape. We are, per the Renewable Portfolio Standard (RPS), 15% renewable right now and 42% non-greenhouse gas emitting. We have very been proactive and have done a lot to be very green as an electric utility and we want to make sure we get credit for that. The GMs of the various municipals are asking their Boards to endorse/support what we are doing and sign a letter that will go to all of the representatives, senators and other stake holders. There have been a few municipal light boards that will not sign. Some have sent letters – they want the municipal to follow the investor owned utilities' RPS. There was discussion. Mr. Bottiggi commented that NCAM which stands for Massachusetts Communities Action Network – they are another conservation law foundation – have seats on some of the municipal boards. They are running some candidates against the existing commissioners and have won some seats – so there are strong environmentalists sitting on light boards that are trying to change the policies of the light departments because of their environmental agenda. This could change the way the munies buy power – we could be forced to only buy green which would force us to raise our rates.

Voted: on motion by Mr. Regan, seconded by Mr. Agnitti, to support the house bill on behalf of municipal power. So voted.

III. Items for Discussion

i. Relay for Life

Chairman Reynolds recognized Ms. Clawson. Ms. Clawson explained that she is there representing the American Cancer Society's Relay for Life. She thanked the Board for their support of this important event. She continued: this is the 18th year and we raised just under \$70,000 and with the combined communities and the 18 years we are just about at the \$4 million mark. There was discussion.

ii. Palmer Renewable Energy Project (PREP)

Mr. Bottiggi explained that for years the Palmer Renewable Energy Project (PREP) has been trying to develop a waste wood burning power plant in Palmer, MA. They have all their permits and approached ENE a few years back to see if they would help them with the offtake. The plant is considered renewable energy by the DOER and it is under the criteria of the RPS but because it has a smoke stack the environmentalists are pushing back on this. ENE had commitments for the capacity but some of the municipals involved have withdrawn their support. These munies have board members who are MCAN members as well. We are still in. He continued the state produces 4,000 tons of tree-trimming waste per day which right now they just spray back into the woods along the side of the road. The plant could burn 1200 tons of that waste per day and instead of methane it will produce CO2. Methane is much worse for the environment than CO2. This is the life cycle: trees grow, fall down, rot, release methane and they will just burn what has fallen down or trimmed. Mr. Bottiggi stated: I am comfortable that this is a good project for BELD to invest in. There may be environmentalists that will not like this but it is very efficient and attractive pricing although it has a stack. There was discussion. BELD would be entering into a PPA (Purchase Power Agreement) with them.

Voted: on motion of Mr. Agnitti, seconded by Mr. Regan, to support BELD entering into a PPA with PREP. So voted.

iii. Fireking Update

Mr. Bottiggi reported that Fireking is coming along. The owner has transferred a certain percentage of the manufacturing into the new facility and that is up and running. The engines for the distributed emergency energy generation will delivered shortly if they are not there now. We are working with the owner of the property currently to get an easement – because we want to protect our rights in the future in case they sell. We would not want to lose the right to have our distributed emergency energy generation engines there. We anticipate at least one engine will be up and running by the end of the year – the other one we are waiting on some upgrades to the gas line by National Grid.

iv. Diesel Generator Building Update

Mr. Bottiggi explained that National Grid has completed the gas line upgrades to feed the engines here at Potter Road. They are installing a gas metering station here as well. Then we will do the start-up testing and then get them up and running. This will help us shave 4 megawatts off our peak

which will be worth \$250,000 for us. Plus we would be able to use this for Black Start – if there was ever a catastrophic black-out we could use that to start up Watson or Potter.

v. Potter II Update

Mr. Bottiggi reported that BELD has been meeting with ISO-NE on retiring Potter II. ISO-NE feels that there is value in Potter. If we are not going to clear the auction then the plant will continue in service for at least another year. He continued: there is a new market called the Clean Peak Energy Standard (CPS) where MA wants to be able to shave the peak with clean technology, which means batteries. Mr. Bottiggi has been working with Borrego and the DOER. The language that was used to create the CPS exempted municipal utilities – but it exempted us from the requirement to support it so it is unclear if we are exempted from an ability to add batteries and get payment for it. Mr. Stone and Mr. Ragucci of ENE, along with Borrego are meeting with the DOER to try to get them to include us in having the ability to add batteries. We are also working with ISO-NE and if they will let us re-power Potter II with batteries we could have as much as 90 megawatts of batteries on site. This would be a big project. Mr. Regan said we do have some experience with working with the batteries so that should help. Mr. Bottiggi agreed and said this will not happen fast – probably more in the 2024 timeframe – but it is something worth pursuing. Potter II did run last week – we got somewhere around 74 megawatts. It does not get called to run often. There was discussion on the penalties that have been incurred by Potter II. We can keep the plant but do not want the risks that come with the Pay for Performance market and Potter’s technology so we are looking to find solutions so it does not cost us.

IV. Personnel Update

Mr. Bottiggi announced that Mr. Coyne is retiring and that this is his last Light Board meeting. Mr. Bottiggi said that Mr. Coyne has done a great job.

Mr. Bottiggi reported that BELD sent 2 crews/4 linemen to Florida for outage preparation as part of Mutual Aid for hurricane Dorian. They were there for a few days and then the storm changed course so they are on their way back.

V. Old Business (As Determined/Needed)

None.

VI. New Business (As Determined/Needed)

Mr. Regan reported a tree that is near pole 17 on Franklin Street is very close to our wires. The tree is hollowed out on the inside. He is not sure if it is our responsibility or the Town’s. Mr. Bottiggi said we would check it out.

VII. Public Participation (As Determined/Needed)

None.

VIII. Tabled Items

None.

IX. Next Regular Meeting – Upcoming Meetings

i. Tuesday, October 8, 2019

X. Executive Session (As Determined/Needed)

None

XI. Adjournment

Voted: on motion of Mr. Regan, seconded by Mr. Agnitti, to adjourn the Electric Division meeting at 5:34 p.m. So voted.

James P. Regan
Secretary

Chairman Thomas Reynolds called the meeting to order at 5:35 p.m. in the BELD Board Room. Those present at the meeting included Chairman Reynolds, Vice Chairman Anthony Agnitti, Secretary James Regan, General Manager William G. Bottiggi, Ken Stone, Chuck Coyne and Gail Cohen, all of BELD.

I. Minutes of Prior Meetings

i. June 18, 2019 Open Meeting

Voted: on motion of Mr. Regan, seconded by Mr. Agnitti, to accept the minutes of June 18, 2019 Open Meeting as written. So voted.

II. Items for Action

None.

III. Items for Discussion

None.

IV. Personnel Update

None.

V. Old Business

None.

VI. New Business

None.

VII. Public Participation

None.

VIII. Tabled Items

- i. Minutes of March 7, 2019 Executive Session Meeting**
- ii. Minutes of May 14, 2019 Open Meeting Minutes**

IX. Next Regular Meeting – Upcoming Meetings

i. October 8, 2019

Chairman Reynolds stated that any votes taken in executive session will be announced in open session after adjourning the executive session.

The Broadband meeting was recessed at 5:36 p.m., on motion of Mr. Regan, seconded by Mr. Agnitti. So voted.

X. Executive Session

i. To discuss competitively-sensitive information

A Roll Call Vote was taken to enter Executive Session for the purpose of discussing competitively-sensitive information at 5:36 p.m.

Mr. Agnitti – yes

Mr. Regan – yes

Mr. Reynolds - yes

Executive Session commenced at 5:37 p.m.

Executive Session ended at 6:01 p.m.

Chairman Reynolds re-opened the Broadband Open Session meeting at 6:01 p.m. He announced that the Light Board had voted to exit the cable television business as of December 1, 2019.

IX. Adjournment

Voted: on motion of Mr. Regan, seconded by Mr. Agnitti, to adjourn the Broadband Division meeting at 6:02 p.m. So voted.

James P. Regan
Secretary

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Attendees: Chairman Thomas Reynolds, Vice-Chairman Anthony Agnitti, Secretary James Regan, General Manager William Bottiggi, Energy Services and Accounting Manager Ken Stone, Broadband Manager Jack Orpen and Support Services Manager Gail Cohen, all of BELD.

A Roll Call Vote was taken to enter Executive Session for the purpose of discussing competitively-sensitive information at 5:36 p.m.

Mr. Agnitti – yes

Mr. Regan – yes

Mr. Reynolds - yes

Executive Session commenced at 5:37 p.m.

Mr. Orpen passed out a packet of information to the Light Board that is considered confidential at this point. There is factual information about what you can and cannot do and also revenue numbers.

Mr. Bottiggi explained that Sarah from Vibrancy Communications has been hired to put a plan together to transition us out of traditional cable television. We would still be offering high speed internet and phone with the focus on improving what we do as a high speed internet company such as higher speeds, simplifying the marketing plan and the packages. A large part of this is to educate our customers on how they can stream tv and save themselves a lot of money. Ms. Cohen is going to give a presentation on what the website will look like – at least on a temporary basis – so customers will be aware of the changes. This could be rolled out in about 3 weeks which will give the customers 2 ½ months notice to transition away from cable tv.

Ms. Cohen explained that the purpose of this advertising campaign is to drive customers and non-customers to the website to get a lot of answers about changes. She continued we have a boxing theme: knock out cable (K.O. Cable). She gave a presentation of the website and where information can be found: how to stream, how much pricing will be, FAQs. There will be a tri-fold to show a lot of the same information so customers can find what they need and a bill insert and *Bright Ideas* will all address this change. There was discussion on the transition for seniors. We have 174 cable only subscribers and out of those 124 are listed on a senior rate. Ms. Cohen said that in the beginning of October the customer service reps are going to call everyone on the list, starting with the seniors, to make sure that they got the information and then walk them through the process. Part of this is that our technicians will go out to the home and hook it up for them to try. We recognize that there will be some people that will not be willing to make changes and we will assist them with telephone numbers for the other cable tv providers in town and we will watch for them to make sure they transition in time. The CSRs focus is on this and not to make anyone upset. Once those calls are completed we will proceed to the bundled customers. She explained the cable shut-off date is December 2, 2019 – this will shut off boxes. The hard cut is December 16, 2019 – cable television would cease to exist at BELD. There was discussion.

Mr. Reynolds asked how the staffing is being addressed. Mr. Bottiggi said there won't be many people leaving and we do have a policy of 2 weeks of severance for every year of service. He continued: we expect the Help Desk Reps to do more of the customer service functions or retire. We have an outsource help desk that has been very successful – they do the hours when our reps are not here. We may trim in the marketing department and maybe a tech or two. It would be very minimal. Mr. Orpen said there are 2 people in the department that could retire and have been planning on leaving anyway. Mr. Bottiggi said it would be minimal impact on employees and he is optimistic that we will get a lot positive publicity about our high speed internet – although there will be negative too. The price alone is good: \$40 per month and you get can 100 meg, guaranteed for one year. There was further discussion. Mr. Stone explained to the Board that we will be losing one set of financial

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statements now – there will be no more broadband. He continued the internet revenue will be on the electric side.

Mr. Bottiggi said this marketing plan will be starting soon and we would need an official vote tonight.

Voted: on motion Mr. Regan made, seconded by Mr. Agnitti to exit the cable television business as of December 1, 2019. So voted.

Motion and roll call vote to adjourn from the Executive Session at 6:01 p.m.

Mr. Agnitti – yes

Mr. Regan – yes

Mr. Reynolds - yes

James P. Regan, Secretary